ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BAPTIST SIPSEY ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

MACEDONIA CHURCH,

SEPTEMBER 27th, and 28th, 1899.

J. B. FERGUSON, Moderator,
A. E. PATTERSON, Clerk.
G. W. ASHCRAFT, Corresponding Sec'y.

The next Session will be held with Spring Hill Church, commencing on Wednesday, before the First Sunady in Oct. 1900.

"West Alabama Breeze," North-Port, Ala.

MINUTES.

The Association met with Macedonia Church, on the 28th and 29th of Sept. 1899, at 10, a. m. Called to order by former Moderator.

Called for Letters, from various Churches, and enrolled names of Delegates :

Arbor Springs---W. D. Whatley.
Antioch---Revs. I. L. Collins and J. B. Ferguson.
Bethabara---Rev. F. E. Mills, E. B. Hendrix and L. Brown.
Corrinth---S. A. Berry, A. M. Mills and J. A. Mitchell.
Dunn's Creek---Rev. R. J. Mayfield and R. K. Gardner.
Friendship---S. T. Shipp and L. M. Traweek.
Macedonia---A. E. Patterson, B. S. Kemp and W. R. Falls.
Mt. Hebron---W. L. Shipp, R. L. Kemp and T. Winter.
New Hope---G. W. Williamson, J. M. Davis and H. N. Davis.
Chapel Hill---J. W. Bobo.
Double Branch---J. R. Abrams, H. A. Skelton and R. H. Junkins
Oak Ridge---Not Represented.
Mt. Tabor---L. S. Appling.
Moore's Bridge---M. C. Crosland and D. E. Windham.
Pleasant Ridge---G. W. Ashcraft and J. M. Ashcraft.
Pleasant Grove---Rev. J. A. Andrews and Wesley Free.
Spring Hill---A. Guin, T. T. Moore and P. D. Sudduth.

After which, went into an election for Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Rev. J. B. Ferguson, for Moderator ; and A. E. Patterson, for Clerk ; & G. W. Ashcraft, Corresponding Sec'y.

After which, Rev. J. B. Ferguson preached the Introductory Sermon, from 1st Cor. 15 and 58. The Body then adjourned for dinner, which was served on the ground. After which, re-assembled, and proceeded with business.

Appointed Committees, as follows :

Religious Literature :—Rev. J. A. Andrews, S. A. Berry and H N. Davis.
Education:—D. E. Windham, J. A. Mitchell and M. C. Crosland.
Documents:—L. Brown, J. M. Ashcraft, R. J. Mayfield, and I. L. Collins.
Nominations:—W. R. Falls, L. S. Appling, J. T. Carter and E. B. Hendrix,
Temperance:—G. W. Ashcraft, A. Guin and W. D. Whatley.
Deceased Ministers:—James Mills, Jr., R. J. Mayfield and W. D. Whatley.

Then the Doors of the Association were opened for membership.

Then called for reading of Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum.

Called for Correspondence, when Revs. J. S. White, F. Wilson, S. L. Ramie, and G. W. Gravlee came from New River Association.

Returned Correspondence :—To the Tuscaloosa Association :—W. D. Whatley, J. A. Mitchell and F. E. Mills ; To the New River Association : J. T. Carter, J. B. Ferguson and L. Brown.

Received Report of District Meetings: First District—The next District Meeting will be held with Antioch Church, beginning Friday, before the Second Sunday in September, 1900, Rev. J. B. Ferguson to preach the Introductory Sermon ; I. L. Collins, alternate.

1st Query, "What is meant by God being grieved ?" Gen. 6 and 6. Opened by R. J. Mayfield and T. L. Hudson. 2nd Query: "What is the Sin against the Holy Ghost ?" Opened by L. Brown and L. M. Traweek. 3d Query : "What is the office of the Holy Spirit that Christ promised to the World ?" Opened by James Mills, jr., and T. L. Hudson. 4th Query: "Is there any conflict between Election and Good Works ?" Opened by F. E. Mills and A. E. Patterson. I. L. COLLINS, Moderator.

A. M. MILLS, Clerk.

THE SECOND DISTRICT will be held with Moore's Bridge Church, on Friday, before the Third Sunday in September, 1900, Rev. J. M. Chism to preach the Introductory Sermon ; J. A. Andrews, alternate. 1st Query; " Did Christ organize and equip the Church for business, while on earth, or was it completed on the day of Pentecost ?" Opened by Rev. J. M. Chism. 2nd Query; "How could Jesus grow in wisdom and knowledge, if he were the true God, being infinite in both ?" Opened by G. W. Ashcraft. 3d Query : "Was the fall of Adam foreordained, or only foreseen by the Father ?" Opened by M. B. Morrow.

J. A. ANDREWS, Moderator.

W. H. BROWN, Clerk.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION---The Convention met with Mount Hebron Church, July 28th, 1899. The next Session will be held with Pleasant Ridge Church, on Friday, before the Third Sunday in July, 1900. Introductory Sermon to be delivered by Rev. I. L. Collins ; J. M. Chism, alternate. Queries : 1st, "What is Sabbath School ?" Opened by H. W. Gardner. 2nd, "Can a Church maintain and carry on a Sabbath School without the co-operation of parents ?" Opened by D. E. Windham. 3rd, "Were the principles of Sabbath School practiced by early Christians ? If so, when and where ?" Opened by L. Brown. 4th, "Can a Church maintain a Sabbath School, when her pastor is indifferent about the Sabbath School cause ? Opened by G. W. Ashcraft. 5th, "What is the duty of Sabbath School Superintendents and Teachers ?" Opened by T. L. Hudson.

There were five very nice Essays read by the following young ladies, viz :--Evie Falls, Vador Falls, Hester Hallman, Emestine Suggs and Dicy Kemp. I. L. COLLINS, Moderator.

E. W. HUDSON, Clerk.

Report on Temperance :—Dear Brethren, from the best information we can gather, the Report on Temperance, last year, has not been heeded, as a whole; but it is hoped that some good has been done on this line, in the bounds of this Association. Brethren, the time has come when we should be a unit on this subject. If the Bible holds to social or moderate dram-drinking, let us ground our arms, but if not, let us front the monster with greater force than ever. The Bible teaches us that we are the light of the world ; let us as Church members, hold the light on STRONG DRINK, and all intemperances, that those around us can see that we are true light-bearers of Jesus.

We further recommend, that the Deacons and Pastors in the bounds of this Association, before another Session, bring the subject of Strong Drink before the Churches, in conference, and discuss the subject, and make their report to the next Session, how their Church stands on the subject. G. W. ASHCRAFT, Ch'n.

Adjourned until 8:30 A. M., to-morrow.

The Body met, pursuant to adjournment, and after Devotional Exercise, conducted by the Moderator, assumed the business of the Association.

Report on Missions :—As there were no arrangements made, at the last Association, to collect any mission money, for Mission work in our bounds, this year, we have not attempted to do any work more than to supply a request for monthly preaching, at the James School-house, which we did by engaging Rev. J. S. White, who has labored 11 days, and report that it is a good opening for our Association to occupy.

We also think this Association is under obligation to make a greater effort to aid in the spread of the Gospel in all the world.

A. M. MILLS, Chairman.

Adjourned for Missionary Sermon, delivered by Rev. I. L. Collins, from 2nd Cor. 5 and 19. After which, took up a Collection for Missions Orphans Home. Also, for Rev. J. S. White's Mission, any work done in our Association. Then adjourned for dinner, which was on the ground, for man and beast. After which, re-assembled for business.

Called for Report on Aged and Infirm Ministers : We find but one who comes under this head—the aged and venerable Brother, R. J. Mayfield—and recommend that the contributions, sent up by the Churches, be turned over to him, and would urge upon the Ministers and Deacons, the importance of contributing to this fund.

Called for Report on Documents : We have examined all the letters and documents placed in our hands, and find the following :—Baptized, 37; Received by Letter, 16 ; Restored, 5; Dismissed by Letter, 5 ; Excluded, 9. L. BROWN, Chairman.

Called for Report on Finance :—We submit the following :

For Minutes, $14,65 ; Clerk's pay, $8,75 ; State Missions, $1,65: Home Missions, 10 cts; Aged and Infirm Ministers, $9,30 ; Mission money to be used in the bounds of the Sipsey Association, $13,90 ; From Arbor Springs, to I. L. Collins, 50 cts.; Orphan's Home, $9,00; Foreign Mission, $10,25----Total, $68,10.

G. W. ASHCRAFT, Chairman.

Called for Report on Religious Literature :---We, the Committee on Religious Literature, Report the following :---The Alabama Baptist Tracts and other publications of our Society, and for Sunday Schools kind, war on American Baptist Publication Society Literature. Also, the Baptist Standard, published at Waco, Texas. Also, the Foreign Mission Journal, for all Baptist Families.

J. A. ANDREWS, Chairman.

Called for Report on Nominations ; Committee report as follows : To preach the Introductory Sermon—Rev. F E Mills ; I L Collins, alternate. To preach the Missionary Sermon—Rev. J B Ferguson ; J A Andrews, alternate. W R FALLS, Ch'n.

Called for Report on Education ; Committee report as follows : Education is progressing, and the people seem to realize the importance of better Biblical training, and the importance of employing Christian teachers who will wield a Christian influence. As we believe the earliest impressions are most lasting and largely shapes the child's destiny, and as the Press is one of the greatest educators, we should look well to that. D E WINDHAM, Ch'n.

Called for Report on Deceased Ministers ; Report as follows : Dear Brethren---Since our last Session of the Association, it has pleased Almighty God, in his Allwise Providence, to remove from among us, our dearly beloved Brother and Minister, J R Barnett, whose wise counsel and kind advice we gravely miss. In the death of Brother Barnett, we have lost one who always stood firm in the way he considered right. His presence, his advice and cheer, we sadly miss, and mourn our loss.

We deeply sympathise with his bereaved family. Brethren, let us bow in humble submission to the providence of God. Let us remember, that "the Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." JAS. MILLS, Jr. Ch'n.

[NOTE]---Memorial to be written by Brother James Mills, Jr., never come. I waited on him two months, and heard nothing from him.---CLERK.

Appointed Standing Committees, as follows :

Temperance---Rev. J A Andrews, James Mills, jr., and J F Ashcraft.

Missions---A M Mills, J M Ashcraft, L Brown, T L Hudson, and J B Ferguson.

Aged and Infirm Ministers---D E Windham, Robert Guin, and B M Freeman.

Sabbath Schools---A E Patterson, H N Davis, R K Gardner, and T Moore.

Resolution for Oak Ridge :---Whereas, one of our Churches, Oak Ridge, has received into their fellowship a member, excluded by our sister Church---Rocky Mount---of our sister, the New River Association ; and whereas, the New River Association has complained to us of the act of said Oak Ridge Church---

Resolved, That we appoint a Committee of seven, to investigate the complaint, and advise the Church as to her duty in this matter.

Committee to go to Oak Ridge---J B Ferguson, by the body; J M Ashcraft, A M Mills, L Brown, J F Ashcraft, J T Carter, D E Windham, H N Davis, and R J Mayfield.

Resolved, That the Mission Board of the Sipsey Association, exonerate Rev. I L Collins from anything of the kind, of setting any price as to his Salary, when Missionary for the Sipsey Association.

A M MILLS, Ch'n of Mission Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT---Paid for Minutes, $14,00 ; Clerk's pay, $9,10 ; For Missions, $57,90.

Appointed A E Patterson, Treasurer.

Resolved, That the Clerk shall reserve, for his services, the entire Associational fund, and have all the Minutes printed the minute fund will pay for, and divide them among the Churches, according to their contribution, (reserving postage.)

Resolved, That we tender to Macedonia Church, and community, our sincere thanks tor their kind hospitality to us, during our stay among them.

Adjourned, to meet with Spring Hill Church, Wednesday, before the First Sunday in October, 1900.

J. B. FERGUSON, Moderator.

A. E. PATTERSON, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall meet annually.

2 This Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the churches in our Union, who, on presenting their letters, (which should be read publicly) shall have their names enrolled by the Clerk and be entitled to seats.

3 The Association thus formed, shall proceed to elect, by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year, or until the next session is organized by electing officers.

4 The Association shall have the privilege to engage in Mission work, &c.

5 The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, a written communication, giving the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded and deceased, since last session.

6 Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent, at any annual session, shall be required to give a reason for failure, at the next session.

7 Churches may be admitted into this Association who petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found orderly and orthodox, may be received, at the discretion of the Association, when the Moderator shall give the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

8 Any church in our union may send queries to the Association, asking advice, when it shall be the duty of the Association to answer the same as she may think best.

9 Voting may be confined exclusively to the Body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10 The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

11 The Minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12 The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of members present, except to amend or change the Constitution.

13 Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members present are in favor of amendment

Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE 1 We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and the New Testament, are the word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ, before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5 We believe in man's incapability, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, but one who is regularly baptized, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

Rules of Decorum.

ART. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Each case taken up by the Association, shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, in such mode as he may determine.

9, The Moderator shall announce the decision of the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, unless by permission of the Association, nor more than once until every one wishing to speak shall have spoken.

12. The appellation of "Brother," shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other person, provided he call some one to his seat during the time. He shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any one violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator, at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1 Devotional Exercises at 10 a. m.
2 Read Letters and enroll names of Delegates.
3 Elect Officers.
4 Deliver Introductory Sermon.
5 Receive Churches desiring membership with us.
6 Read Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum.
7 Receive Correspondence.
8 Return Correspondence.
9 Appoint Temporary Committees.
10 Appoint Standing Committees.
11 Receive Report of District Meetings.
12 Receive Report of Sabbath Schools.
13 Receive Report on Temperance.
14 Receive Report on Aged Ministers.
15 Receive Report on Missions.
16 Receive Report of Temporary Committees, Documents, Education, Religious Literature, Nominations, Finance, and any other Committees.
17 Receive Treasurer's Report.
18 Appoint a Treasurer.
19 Call for Miscellaneous Business.
20 Read and adopt Minute.

Statistical Table of the Sipsey Baptist Association, 1899.

	CHURCH	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last reported	Baptism	Letter,	Restoration	Letter,	Exclusion	Death	Present Membership
First Dist.	Arbor Springs	Tuscaloosa	S E Hodge	J W Falls	Samantha	51			1	1		2	51
	Antioch	"	I L Collins	F J M Hocutt	New Lexington	28	3	10		2			39
	Bethabara	"	F E Mills	G L Traweek	Humphrey	43						1	55
	Corrinth	"	Rufus Obriant	J A Mitchell	Sipsey Turnp'k	104	2					2	86
	Dunn's Creek	"	J M Chism	A J Lewis	Fox	148				1	1	4	143
	Friendship	"	F E Mills	T H Spencer	Binion's Creek	33			2	2			32
	Macedonia	"	I L Collins	W R Falls	Reuben	33	12	4		2	1		40
	Mount Hebron	"	J A Anderson	D E Cribbs	McConnell's	53	1			4		1	49
	New Hope	"	J B Ferguson	H N Davis	Reuben	53		4		3		3	49
Second Dist.	Chapel Hill	Fayette	J M Chism	W H Brown	Pilgrim	81				1	8		79
	Double Branch	Pickens	D A Andrews	J R Abrams	Lubbub	56							54
	Oak Ridge	Fayette	J W Hosmer	not known	Pilgrim								
	Mount Tabor	Pickens	J M Chism	W A McCrary	Palmetto	30				1			31
	Moore's Bridge	Tuscaloosa	G W Gravlee	D E Windham	Moore's Bridge	56	3	2		2	2		48
	Pleasant Ridge	Fayette	F Wilson	J F Richardson	Loco	63		4					66
	Pleasant Grove	Pickens	J A Anderson	A S Bailey	Gordo	55	18	2		1	5	1	69
	Spring Hill	Tuscaloosa	F Wilson	J M Moore	Moore's Bridge	83	3						87

Sipsey Association :—State Mission, $15,55 ; Home Mission, 10 cts.; Foreign Mission, $10,25 ; Ministerial Education, $9,30; Orphan's Home, $9,00 ; Minutes, $14,65.—Total, $59,35.